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1400 DCS 69-953

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
40TH AEROSPACE RESCUE & RECOVERY SQUADRON (MAC) T
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96200

CONFIDENTIAL ON 1 APR 73
IAN EX. ORDER 11652
24 February 1958
9/8

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: 4000 (Capt Ruddle/2687)

SUBJECT: Mission Narrative Report #2-3-015-22 Feb 69 (Un)ified by 64 2 3ARRGP

TO: 3ARRGP (JSARC) JET w
APO 96307

SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO
YEAR INTERVALS.
DECLASSIFIED ON 31 Dec 75

1. (U) This report is submitted in accordance with ARRSM 55-2/3ARRGP
Sup 1, dated 11 July 1968.

2. (S) At 0425Z, 22 Feb 69, JG 71 (low) and JG 72 (high) were on Tango
airborne alert listening to fighter strikes on UHF when Raven 44 reported
that Vegas 01 had been blown up in the air. One chute was confirmed. JG
71 contacted Crown with position and established initial orbit 10 NM WSW
of survivor. Within 10 minutes, contact was established with Raven 44 on
UHF. Raven 44 then established contact with Vegas 01B on the ground. He
was bleeding from the head, would need assistance boarding the helicopter
penetrator, and had moved 100 yards 060° downhill from his chute. JG 71
was briefed by Raven 44 on the survivor's condition and location. Sandy
7 and 8 arrived in the area and Sandy 7 checked area for ground fire and
location of survivor. Sandy 08 contacted JG 71 and 72 and established
rendezvous over a karst area 055° 25NM off Ch 113. Survivor was located
19°25'N; 103°19.5'E. Visual contact with Sandy 08 was difficult because
of hazy weather condition, scattered cirrus, visibility varied from 2 to
3 miles. Rendezvous established at 0510Z. Twenty minutes later JG 71
switched to UHF Guard channel, started descent to pickup point. Sandy
08 vectored JG 71 across road structure and away from several areas of
observed ground fire from both the left and right of the aircraft. After
crossing the road and continuing descent, the RCC directed the RCGP to
jettison both tip tanks. Approached survivor's position parallel to a
ridge line on a heading 080-090°. Smoke masking was provided by Sandys
and Raven 44. Survivor was on radio inquiring about immediate pickup.
He said he felt he might pass out. The majority of subsequent
vectors and directions in the immediate area to the location of the
survivor were provided by Raven 44. He exposed himself on numerous
occasions to direct ground fire in order to pinpoint the survivor's
position for JG 71. JG 72 remained high cover, over the ridge line,
9-10,000 feet (5,000 MSL). As JG 71 began to establish hover, ground fire
was received from the left.

Classification (cancelled) (changed to) UNCLASS
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C. S. DE LOOSE JR. by M. J. J. S.

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Atch 2'

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It was returned by the pararescueman on the ramp minigun. One round entered the aircraft, no major damage. JG 71 continued hover, located chute, but survivor did not come up on the radio and could not be located. Smoke flares had previously been expended and no other signalling devices were used. After several turns and changes of position, for approximately 5 minutes, JG 71 departed along entry route. The survivor immediately came up Guard and said JG 71 had passed over him. A second approach along the same route was initiated. Hover again was established near the chute. Radio contact was maintained but the survivor could not be seen. Ground fire was also received and returned by JG 71 on this approach. Extremely turbulent conditions were encountered in this new position due to strong winds along the ridge, placing the aircraft in a downwind position. In view of heavy ground fire and inability to hover properly under these conditions, the RCC discontinued the attempt and began a short 90-270° turn to reposition the aircraft. The RCC requested the survivor to come uphill closer to his chute. [Raven 44] picked up JG 71 and again lead him into the immediate area. Survivor said he had moved back uphill near his chute, and asked if he was clear to stand up. He was told yes. A third hover was established, and he was visually located at 0551Z. Sergeant Meyer, pararescueman, descended the penetrator and assisted the survivor aboard. Ground fire was received during ascent. Sergeant Meyer returned it with his M-16. As the aircraft exited the area to the east at 0605Z, ground fire was again received. Sergeant Koecher, pararescueman at the ramp minigun, returned ^{FIRE} with his M-16. Ammunition for the minigun had been exhausted. Survivor was severely wounded and required immediate medical attention which was quickly given by Sergeants Meyer and Koecher. Sandy 3 and 4 arrived in the area about this time. Upon advice from Crown, JG 71 turned southwest and flew directly to [L-20], where two doctors had been alerted. Both pararescuemen escorted the survivor to the hospital. JG 71 took off for [Alternate 20] to refuel, as less than 1000 lbs remained. Landing was at 0625Z and mission terminated. Survivor was later airlifted by [Air America Caribou] to Ch 70. JG 71 returned to Ch 70 after battle damage assessment and refueling.

3. (U) The survivor was 1st Lt Michael Denanon,

555th TFSq.

4. (U) The rescue crews were:

Jolly Green 71 (Low)

RCC: Capt Louis A. Ruddle,
RCCP: Major John R. Winter,
FE: SSgt Donald Labarre,
RS: Sgt Tommy W. Meyer,
RS: Sgt Robert P. Koecher,

Jolly Green 72 (High)

RCC: Capt John H. Hartman,
RCCP: Capt James H. Wegman,

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FE: SSgt Ralph [redacted]
RS: MSgt Bigelow, Larry W., AF [redacted]
RS: A1C James E. Nash, AF [redacted]

Louis A. Ruddle
LOUIS A. RUDDLE, Capt, USAF
Rescue Crew Commander

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1. 3ARRGP Form 20 (S)
2. 3ARRGP Form 20a (S)

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Date: 22 Feb 1969

24 Feb 1969

Mission Number: 02-3-015-22 Feb 69

Flight Designation: Crown 1 and Crown 2

Distressed Aircraft: Vegas 01 (F-4)

Location 058/25/113

Saves: One (1) Combat

1. At 0425Z, Raven 44 reported to Crown 1 that Vegas 01 had exploded at bomb release and was down in the PDJ. Raven 44 observed on chute and voice contact was established with Vegas 01B. Vegas Bravo reported he was bleeding from severe lacerations on the head and was afraid he would not be able to remain conscious.
2. Crown 1 maintained AMC until 0555Z when Crown 2 assumed AMC. Crown 1 had to RTB due to lack of fuel.
3. Sandys 7/8 arrived on scene at 0440Z from Alpha orbit. Sandy 7 was designated as OSC. JGs 71/72 arrived on scene at 0505Z from orbit north of Tango. Sandys 3/4 and JG 68 were scrambled to assist. Fastmovers were also requested along with slowmovers carrying CBU-19.
4. Raven 44 reported small arms fire in the vicinity of the survivor, however, since the survivor's physical condition was deteriorating rapidly, the decision was made to attempt the recovery without first using the fastmovers to sterilize the area. Smoke bombs were dropped between the small arms fire and the survivor.
5. At 0530Z, JG 71 attempted to make the recovery. Contact with the survivor was lost and JG 71 was directed to withdraw. JG 71 received small arms fire on the recovery attempt, however, no major damage was done to the helicopter.
6. Sandys 3/4 arrived at 0550Z. Crown 2 assumed control at 0555Z. Crown 1 RTB Channel 70 for fuel.
7. Voice contact was regained with Vegas Bravo and successful recovery was made at 0600Z by JG 71. The survivor was taken to Lima Site 20, the closet medical facility. After medical treatment, the survivor was flown to Channel 70 by Air America 389.
8. Sandys 7/8 RTB at 0600Z for fuel. Sandys 3/4 and Crown 2 remained on scene to conduct electronic search for Vegas Alpha. All SAR forces released from search at 0800Z.

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